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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS**Claims 1-19 (Cancelled)**

Claim 20 (New) A method of machining a plurality of intersecting bores in an object, the plurality of bores including at least one bore intersecting at least another bore at an acute angle, the method comprising steps of:

- a) machining a first bore;
- b) plugging the first bore with a first plugging member;
- c) machining a second bore so as to acutely intersect the first bore and the plugging member; and
- d) removing the plugging member from the first bore.

Claim 21. (New) A method as claimed in claim 20 further comprising the step of plugging a third bore with a second plugging member prior to performing step c), and wherein the second bore acutely intersects the third bore and the plugging member therein.

Claim 22. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the first bore and the third bore intersect the second bore asymmetrically.

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Claim 23. (New) A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the object has a curved peripheral surface, and wherein the first and second bores are disposed substantially tangentially relative to the curved peripheral surface.

Claim 24. (New) A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the plugging member is made of the same material as the object.

Claim 25. (New) A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the plugging member is adapted to protect a surface of the first bore.

Claim 26. (New) A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the first bore is finished before the second bore is machined.

Claim 27. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26 wherein the machining of the second bore comprises roughing the second bore with the first plugging member remaining in the first bore, and then finishing the second bore with a second plugging member in the first bore to replace the first plugging member therein.

Claim 28. (New) A method as claimed in claim 22 wherein the first and second bores are finished before the second bore is machined.

Claim 29. (New) A method as claimed in claim 28 wherein the machining of the second bore comprises

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roughing and then finishing the second bore with the first and second plugging members remaining in the respective first and third bores during the entire machining process of the second bore.

Claim 30. (New) A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the plurality of the bores are substantially identical and wherein the second plugging member in the third bores is previously used for finishing at least one of the bores other than the second bore.

Claim 31. (New) A method as claimed in claim 30 wherein the second plugging member is inserted into the third bore in a manner in which the second plugging member will be intersected by the second bore at a portion not affected in the previous finishing process of the at least one of the bores other than the second bore.

Claim 32. (New) A method of machining a plurality of asymmetrically intersecting bores in an object, the method comprising steps of:

- a) machining a first bore;
- b) inserting a plug into the first bore;
- c) machining a second bore so as to acutely intersect a plugged portion of the first bore;
- d) burnishing a portion of the second bore limited to a depth less than the intersection of the first and second bores.

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Claim 33. (New) A method as claimed in claim 32 wherein machining the second bore comprises roughing and finishing the second bore with the plugging member remaining in the first bore.

Claim 34. (New) A method as claimed in claim 33 wherein the plugging member is inserted into the first bore after the first bore is machined with a finishing process.

Claim 35. (New) A method of machining a plurality of intersecting bores in an object, the plurality of bores including at least one bore intersecting at least another bore, the method comprising steps of:

machining a first bore; and
machining a second bore with a tool,

wherein the second and first bores intersect in a manner such that the object reacts forces asymmetrically on the tool when the tool intersects the first bore, the asymmetric forces tending to deflect the tool laterally from a central axis of the second bore, and wherein the method further comprises the step of:

plugging the first bore with a plugging member prior to machining the second hole, the plugging member adapted to reduce said asymmetry and thereby maintain alignment of the tool with the second bore central axis.

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Claim 36. (New) A method as claimed in claim 35 wherein the second bore is machined with a roughing process and then with a finishing process while the plugging member is remaining in the first bore without changing in position in order to maintain alignment of the toll with the second bore central axis during the finishing process of the second bore.